2014 SARL 80 m QSO Party

The aim of this contest is to create an interest in and activity on the 80 m band. It is a phone only contest.

The contest will be run on 3 April from 17:00 to 20:00 UTC (19:00 to 22:00 CAT) and only frequencies in the segment 3 603 to 3 650 and 3 700 to 3 800 kHz may be used.

The exchange is call signs, RS signal report and operator's name. Participation can be as a Single Operator or a Short Wave Listener (SWL)

The scoring is 10 points for every contact with a South African station and 15 points for every contact with a station outside South Africa.

Logs must be submitted by 12 April to zs5lp@vodamail.co.za

2014 RaDAR Contest

The RaDAR contest is a unique event aimed at promoting the use of Rapidly Deployable Amateur Radio stations. This contest is for all licensed radio amateurs not limited to South Africa. A choice is made prior to the contest to participate in one of the defined categories but may be changed at any time during the contest. The points system is so structured as to encourage portable operations especially moveable RaDAR stations.

The contest takes place on Saturday 5 April starting at 14:00 UTC and ending at 18:00 UTC (16:00 to 20:00 CAT) - approximately two hours during the day and two hours at night within the South African time zone.

All amateur bands, besides the WARC bands, are allowed including cross band contacts via amateur radio satellites. Modes - CW, SSB, AM, FM or any digital mode. QSOs via terrestrial repeaters will NOT be allowed. Suggested HF Calling frequencies, visit http://zs6bne.wordpress.com/2013/03/06/radar-calling-frequencies/ for the latest international list of frequencies. Recommended digital modes frequencies - refer to the SARL Contest Manual, General Rule 15.

The exchange: the RaDAR contest requires more than a minimalistic information exchange. Accurate information exchange is considered more important than a large QSO count. Call sign, Name, RS(T) Report, QTH and grid locator. Note the grid locator can change as RaDAR operators are allowed to move position at any time. The grid locator of six characters is acceptable but should preferably be accurate to 10 characters for higher position accuracy.

Scoring: 1 point per QSO. Individual QSOs - per mode, per band, per satellite, per call sign.

Categories and multipliers. The following multipliers are applicable to determine the final score. If category changes were made during the contest than calculate accordingly.

(Continued on page 2)

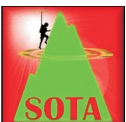*Have **YOU** done anything today to Promote **Amateur Radio?***

March

1 and 2 - ARRL International DX SSB Contest
2 - SARL Hamnet 40 metre Simulated Emergency Contest
8 and 9 - RSGB Commonwealth Contest
9 - Cape Argus Cycle Tour
17 - St Patrick's Day
21 - Human Rights Day; Namibian Independence Day
22 - World Water day
23 - World Meteorological day
28 - Schools close
29 and 30 - CQ WPX SSB Contest
31 - Hindi New Year

April

3 - SARL 80 metre QSO Party
5 - RaDAR Contest
7 - Schools open
10 - Closing date for May RAE
11 to 12 - SARL National Convention
15 - Pesach begins
18 - Good Friday; World Amateur Radio Day
19 - Autumn QRP Contest; Two Oceans Marathon
20 - Easter Sunday
21 - Family Day
22 - Pesach ends, Earth Day
27 - Freedom Day
28 - Public Holiday
29 - School holiday
30 - School holiday

Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at www.sotawatch.org
And more SOTA information can be found at www.sota.org.uk

(Continued from page 1)

x 1 - RaDAR Fixed station (at home or in another building)
x 2 - RaDAR Field station (portable - away from home)
x 3 - Moving RaDAR station - Car / motorcycle / bicycle / etc., - minimum 3 km
x 4 - Moving RaDAR station - on foot - minimum 1 km

Note: Moving RaDAR stations can move at any time but are required to move to the next destination after five contacts have been made from the present location. The move needs to cover the required distance before further contacts are allowed to be made. This requirement tests the ability to rapidly re-deploy your amateur radio field station.

Power multiplier: The power multiplier that applies is determined by the highest power output of any of the transmitters used during the contest at any point in time.

X 6 - 5 Watts or less
X 4 - 6 to 50 Watts
X 2 - 51 watts or greater

Bonus points (All categories). 5 Points (the equivalent of five QSOs) for a minimum of one satellite or any digital modes QSO involving a computer, smartphone or digital modes device. (For clarity - thereafter 1 point per Satellite / Digital modes QSO). 5 points for the first inter continental DX QSO - 10 points if that QSO is between two participating RaDAR stations.

Log Sheets, the SARL RaDAR Contest manager is Eddie, ZS6BNE. Send e-mail entries to edleighton@gmail.com. The closing date for logs is 19 April 2014. See www.dropbox.com/s/hygzv5no1gev0bx/ZS6BNE-RaDAR-GenericContestLog2013.docx for a log sheet specifically designed for the RaDAR contest.

Note: A photo of the station (JPG format) MUST accompany every log entry. A photo is required for each new location that moveable stations move to. These photos are used to promote amateur radio and the RaDAR concept showing where amateur radio can be used to communicate from and in the many different ways.

African DX

Sierra Leone, 9L. Ivo, 9A3A is active as 9L1A until the end of May. He is active on 6 meters around 50 110 kHz. QSL via 9A2AA.

Tanzania, 5H. Arne, OH2NNE is active as 5H2DK from the Angaza Women Centre in Sanya Juu until 23 March. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using SSB. QSL to home call.

Tanzania, 5H. Maurizio, IK2GZU, will once again return to the Mission Ilembula, Tanzania, to do some work at the new hospital and orphanage between 14th March and 11th April 2014. He plans to be active during his spare time as 5H3MB on the HF bands. Maurizio will use his FT-100 and the mission's TS-850 into a tri-band 3 element beam (20, 15 and 10 m) fixed on Europe and a vertical or dipole for the other bands. QSL via IK2GZU, direct or bureau. Also, QSL via LoTW (after his return home) and eQSL. For more details, updates and an online log, visit his web pages at www.buffoli-pm.it/5h/Tanzania%202011.htm and www.buffoli-pm.it/5h/qsl%20request.htm

Malawi, 7Q. We're pleased to announce that our 2014 Malawi DXpedition has received their license and will be operating a special call as 7QAA [yes, that is the call sign]. Our core team of regulars that have operated DXpeditions and contests from Africa in the past (from 3DA, A25, 7P8, etc.,) have also decided it's time to name ourselves. Meet "The Black Mamba Contest and DXpedition Team"!
We have registered 7QAA on QRZ.com and now also have a website up and running - www.malawidx.org. Please follow us there as we develop the website, finalise our team, goals, equipment, operating dates and other important details. As we did for 3DA0ET, our survey to determine how we can best serve you, the DX community, in terms of needs and band slots etc. for 7QAA will be opened up on our website within the next two weeks. 73, Roger, ZS6RJ (Co-Team Leader).

(Continued from page 2)

Lesotho, 7P. Peter, EI7CC, will once again be active as 7P8PB from Maseru between 14 March and 3 April. Activity will be limited because he will be on a family holiday and will operate when circumstances permit. He will be operating from his brother-in-law Gerry's station, 7P8CC (home call sign EI8CC). QSL via EI7CC, by the Bureau or direct. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW immediately upon his return to Ireland. If possible, Peter may try to upload them while in Lesotho.

Togo, 5V. Franco, I1FQH, is once again active as 5V7DX from Kpalime Village in central Togo until late March. Activity will be on the top bands, 12 and 10 metres using mostly CW with some SSB. He will use an ICOM 7000 with a small KL500 solid state amplifier into a Spiderbeam (20 to 10 m), home brew vertical for 40/30 m (1/4 wave long with 32 radials). QSL via his home call sign, direct, by the Bureau or LoTW (he will upload his log during his stay).

Togo, 5V. Operators Phil, F5MVB, and Joël, F5AOW, are planning to be active as 5V7MP and 5V7BJ, respectively, from Avepozo between 23 and 31 March. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres. Joël, 5V7BJ, will be on SSB only and Phil, 5V7MP, will be on both SSB and CW. QSL via their home call signs, direct or by the Bureau.

Morocco, CN2. Jim, W7EJ, will once again be active as CN2R during the CQ WW. WPX SSB Contest (29 and 30 March) as a Multi-Single entry. Look for him to be active before and after the contest between 12 March and 2 April. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW and SSB. Jim informs that he will also to be in the Russian DX Contest [RDXC] (15 and 16 March). QSL via W7EJ. See the station from CN2R at http://www.arraysolutions.com/Users/cn2r.htm

Western Sahara, S0. A few media sources are reporting that a new operator named Azman Hafed "Man" will be active as S01AH from Bir Lehlu (WW Loc. IL56hb) soon. QSL via EA2JG. It was also mentioned on "Twitter": "Naama, S01A will operate 60 metres, 5 403.5 kHz in March." Reportedly, Naama has a license to operate on 60 m and will be looking for states. It is suggested to watch the following for updates and news https://twitter.com/SaharaDxTeam and http://saharadx.jimdo.com. During the weekend, Naama, S01A, showed up on 15 metres SSB around 13:45 UTC.

African Islands on the Air

Reunion Island, FR. Guy, F5MNW will be active as FR/F5MNW from Reunion Island from 16 March to 8 April. He will operate CW only. QSL via home call, direct or bureau.

Cape Verde, D4. Lukas, HB9EBT, will be active as D44TEG from Tarrafal, located in the northern part of the island of Santiago (AF-005), in the Sotavento Islands group of Cape Verde, between 29 March and 5 April. Activity will be on 20 to 10 metres using CW, PSK and RTTY. QSL via HB9EBT, direct or by the Bureau.

Tromelin, FT4T, (Press Release #2) [edited]: "The Amsterdam DXpedition has been the focus of many DXers in the last few weeks. Our friends are now back home with more than 170 000 contacts in the log. Congratulations! While waiting for the update of their website you can find some superb pictures and a short article on the TAAF's Web site http://www.taaf.fr/Actualites-de-la-mission-de-radio-amateurs-FT5ZM-sur-l-ile-d-Amsterdam

Concerning Tromelin 2014, a lot of work has been done since our previous press release.
First of all, we are extremely proud and grateful of the mobilization of the amateur radio community. We want to thank the major sponsors WHO joined our project. In the same way, a large number of smaller clubs have shown much generosity. You can find all our contributors on the dedicated page. http://

(Continued from page 3)

www.tromelin2014.com/en/how-to-help-us/. The budget is not balanced yet and all kinds of help will be necessary to make this expedition possible.

It is important to understand how logistical constraints related to transport are the major element in the organization of our operation. A few days ago, a member of the team met with our plane pilot who showed him the aircraft that we will be using. Together, they dealt with the problems of the transportation of the team and equipment. As of today, all is in order from a material and administrative point of view. Also, in the next few weeks, we will reach for certain suppliers, manufacturers in order to provide us with equipment offering the best weight, reliability and performance ratio.

Work also continues with the TAAF authorities. The list of the topics to deal with is relatively long, but since day one all our interlocutors have been very receptive, reactive, and have provided an invaluable help.

The ham radio call signs used on the territories managed by the TAAF are issued by their services on the Reunion Island. FT4TA (Fox Tango Four Tango Alpha) has been issued to us for our operation from 30 October to 10 November 2014.

The pilot stations setup is being organized and will be revealed very soon. Schedules are being tweaked thanks to the forecasts and contributions of all.

We are waiting for the return of Michel, FM5CD, member of FT5ZM, http://www.amsterdamdx.org/ in order to use his input from his last operation.

New communications will follow, more specifically on the 'radio' aspects of the expedition. At the same time, we are preparing a series of articles for our website which will help you discover the Scattered Islands (Iles Eparses in French) and more particularly our final destination.

More than ever, stay tuned… The Tromelin 2014 team"

FT5ZM pictures and video. A short video (about 4 minutes) and 105 photos of the FT5ZM Amsterdam Island DXpedition are now available by Nodir, EY8MM, at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGNI2738UAg and http://www.ey8mm.com/pictures/view-album/61

Madeira Island. Jean-Marc, F5SGI, will be active as CT9/F5SGI from Ilha da Madeira (IOTA AF-014) between 5 and 12 April 2014. He will be active on 80 to 10 metres, mainly CW. QSL via home call, either bureau or direct.

Lampedusa Island, AF-019. (Update/Need Ops!) An international team of operators will be active as IG9Y from Lampedusa Island during the CQ WW DX SSB Contest (25 and 26 October) and CQ WW DX CW Contest (29 and 30 November) as a Multi-Multi entry. Operators mentioned currently are Gabor, HA1YA, Marco, HB9OCR, Aurelio, PC5A, Peter, PD1RP, Mark, PA5MW, Marco, PE2MC, Miran, S50O, Silvo, S50X, Hubert, S51NZ, Romeo, S52RU, Renato, S57UN and Slavc, S57DX. They are still looking for operators. Activity outside the contest will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, and RTTY, with four stations on the air. QSL via ON4LG. An OQRS will be available for direct and Bureau cards. Visit their Web page at http://ig9y.com
ADDED NOTE: IG9Y is a lone African Entity that counts in the CQ DX Marathon!!!

Nelson's Island, AF-109. The "DX-World.net" is reporting that a team from the ERASD (The Egyptian Radio Amateurs Society for Development) will once again activate Nelson's Island between 13 and 20 June. The call sign mentioned is SU8N. Look for more info to be forth-coming. Also, watch the ERASD's Web page at http://www.qsl.net/egyptham. Also, watch https://www.facebook.com/events/441478712566533

Responsible QSLing…

All QSL bureaux worldwide face rising demand, costs and limited resources. Help to speed up processing and cut waste for everyone, by being a Responsible QSLer

8 Simple things you can do…..

- Simply ask new contacts, "If I send you a QSL card, do you collect and how? – every time
- If you don't QSL, be polite but honest during your contact – "Thanks but no thanks" is all it takes.
- Please don't say you do when you don't, or ignore the other guy's kind offer, otherwise wasted cards will be sent.
- QSLing 100% outgoing can be a costly. For some 50% or less appears to be the average collection and return rate - think before you send.
- **ZS Stations - Club Calls - Special Events - Contests DXpeditions or your Call Sign - Use *ClubLog* – *create an OQRS*.** Allows you to confirm a contact and respond quicker to those that really want your QSL, with a real card, bureau or direct, saves time, money and cuts waste, for you and your club. www.**clublog**.org
- Make your QRZ.com QSL details very clear, at the top of the page - not at the bottom. Not everyone reads everything.
- If you change your QSL status remember to amend your page - don't leave it. N.B. QSL Direct 'via' calls are confusing, At QRZ.com be clear what you mean.

Finally….

Always collect your incoming cards even if you don't reply. We have to sort and ship everything just to find the wanted cards. It only costs a stamp, so please support our volunteers by being responsible for the cards your QSOs generate.

Thanks to the RSGB QSL Bureau!

Word to the Wise…

You're clicking on everything that moves on the band map, yet your multiplier totals are still lagging.
On a typical Sunday afternoon, a friend poses the following illuminating question:
1) CQ
2) Tune the bands
3) Point-and-click at garden-variety stations on the band map
Which one of these three techniques is almost guaranteed <u>not</u> to yield a new multiplier?

This and That …..

DX Engineering http://www.dxengineering.com/ has been busy lately, acquiring Cycle 24 Antenna Products. Cycle 24's product line includes the TX38 Yagi which is the official triband antenna being used by all stations in the upcoming WRTC-2014. The antenna is lightweight at 30 pounds but features eight full-sized elements (two elements each on 20 and 15 meters and four elements on 10 meters). The product line extends to heavy-duty galvanized parts such as saddle clamps and U-bolts for antenna construction along with the EA4TX ARS-USB Rotator Controller Interface.

JK Antennas https://www.facebook.com/jkantennas and 2X Arrays are combining their design and manufacturing processes. JK Antennas produces long-boom mono-band and duo-band antenna designs while 2X Arrays develops proprietary antenna design processes ranging from electrical optimization to physical model electrical testing and tuning. The 2X Arrays antenna line will now be manufactured at the JK Antennas facility in Connecticut.

HF Happenings

How many elements in this stack of 2X beams? Officially, it's "a lot!" (Photo courtesy of 2X Arrays)

Pete, N4ZR, reports that "for RBN node-ops and anyone else interested, Bob, N6TV's Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) stats are now available on the RBN blog http://reversebeacon.blogspot.com/. They include Skimmer rankings by number of spots and SNR, as well as most-spotted stats."

Two very useful automatically updating online maps include the popular Grey Line map http://dx.qsl.net/propagation/greyline.html that shows sunlight and darkness slowly moving across a Mercator projection of the world. A brand-new azimuthal-equidistant representation from XKCD http://www.xkcd.com/1335/ displays the continents on a fixed time scale with helpful hints about "Business Hours" and "Rude to Call".

Dave, K1TTT, has released the 30th anniversary edition of his 700-page+ book http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/k1ttt on building a superstation, including lots of pictures of towers and antennas as well as other stuff. The e-book version is free, but you have to pay for printing and shipping for the paperback version.

Jay WXØB has published an app note on the Array Solutions website http://arraysolutions.com/images/Tuning_160m_Vertical.pdf that shows how to tune up a 160 meter vertical that carries lots of AM broadcast RF on the antenna.

Cleaning off the outside of aluminium antenna elements usually just requires a non-scratch abrasive pad and some elbow grease. But what about the *inside* of the tubing? You know - where the serious gunk resides? This Instructable project shows how to make a spindle http://www.instructables.com/id/Turn-your-drill-into-a-spindle-sander-using-a-home/ that can hold sandpaper in a drill to do the job in a trice! And another that keeps those many screwdriver bits handy in a "Bit Ball." http://www.instructables.com/id/Work-Bag-Bit-Keeper/

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 10 to 17 March 2014

QRP Fox Hunt
01:00 - 02:30 UTC 14 March
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op (Fox/Hound)
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 15 March 2014
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC RTTY Sprint
02:00 - 02:25 UTC 14 March

Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 16 March 2014
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 14 March
Mode: (see rules)
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: (see rules)

(Continued from page 6)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 16 March 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: http://www.3830scores.com/

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

BARTG HF RTTY Contest

02:00 UTC 15 March to 02:00 UTC 17 March

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op Expert All Band; Single Op All Band; Single Op All Band 6 Hours; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Single; Multi-Multi; SWL

Max operating hours: Single Op: 30 hours with at least 3 hour rest period; Single Op 6 Hours: 6 hours; Multi-Op: 48 hours

Exchange: RST, serial no and 4-digit time (UTC)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: DXCC countries once per band; JA, W, VE and VK areas once per band; Continents once regardless of band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total country/area mults x continents

Submit logs by: 13 April 2014

E-mail logs to: logs@bartg.org.uk

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://s3.spanglefish.com/s/7850/documents/contests/hf/rules/bartg-hf-rtty-contest-rules.pdf

PN Quick CW Contest

09:00 - 10:40 UTC 15 March

Mode: CW

Bands: 40 m Only

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 Watts

Exchange: PN Member: "PN" and member no; non-Member: serial no

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each PN member

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 25 March 2014

E-mail logs to: nra.contest@nra.pt

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.nra.pt/pn-quick-cw-contest_-in..html

F9AA Cup, SSB

12:00 UTC 15 March to 12:00 UTC 16 March

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 2 m

Classes: >100 W; >10 – 100 W; 10 W

Exchange: RST, serial no, license type and country or F Dept

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with individual; 5 points per QSO with club; Bonus: 50 points for each QSO with F8URC

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 15 April 2014

E-mail logs to: concoursf9aa@urc.asso.fr

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.site.urc.asso.fr/urchaut-6/om-6/131-trophee-f9aa.html

Russian DX Contest

12:00 UTC 15 March to 12:00 UTC 16 March

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band Mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op All Band CW - low or high; Single Op All Band SSB - low or high; Single Op Single Band Mixed; Multi-Single; Multi-Two; SWL

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Ru: RS(T) and 2-character oblast; non-Ru: RS(T) and serial no

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: Ru Stations: 2 points per QSO with same country same continent; 5 points per QSO with same country different continent; 3 points per QSO with different country same continent; 5 points per QSO with different continent; non-Ru Stations: 10 points per QSO with Ru station; 2 points per QSO with same country; 3 points per QSO with different country same continent; 5 points per QSO with different continent; 5 points per QSO with /MM

Multipliers: Each oblast once per band; Each country once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 12:00 UTC 30 March 2014

E-mail logs to: logs@rdxc.org

Upload log at:

http://www.rdxc.org/asp/pages/wwwlog.asp

(Continued from page 7)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.rdxc.org/asp/pages/rulesg.asp

Virginia QSO Party

14:00 UTC 15 March to 02:00 UTC 16 March and 12:00 -24:00 UTC 16 March

Mode: CW, Phone, Digital

Bands: All, except WARC

Classes: Single Op - fixed, mobile or expedition - high, low or QRP - multi-band or single-band - CW, phone, digital or mixed; Multi-Single - fixed, mobile or expedition - high, low or QRP - multi-band or single-band - CW, phone, digital or mixed; Multi-Multi - fixed, mobile or expedition - high, low or QRP - multi-band or single-band - CW, phone, digital or mixed

Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: VA: Serial no and county; non-VA: Serial no and state, province or "DX"

Work stations: Once per band per mode

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 15 April 2014

E-mail logs to: vqp@verizon.net

Mail logs to: VA QSO Party, Call Box 599, Sterling, VA 20167, USA

Find rules at: http://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2014_VQP/2014_VQP_Rules.html

Feld Hell Sprint

16:00 - 18:00 UTC 15 March

Mode: Feld Hell

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: Standard: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Bonus Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 22 March 2014

Upload log at: https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests/sprints/leprechaun-sprint

North American SSB Sprint

00:00 - 04:00 UTC 16 March

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max operating hours: 4 hours

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: other station's call, your call, serial no, your name and your state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7) once; Each VE province once; Each North American country (except W/VE) once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 23 March 2014

E-mail logs to: (see rules, web upload preferred)

Upload log at: http://www.ncjweb.com/sprintlogsubmit/

Mail logs to: Chris Tate, N6WM, 12450 Del Valle Rd, Livermore, CA 94550, USA

Find rules at: http://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest

01:00 - 03:00 UTC 17 March

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Band; All Band

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent

Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once; Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23 March 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/autolog.php

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/

Bucharest Contest

18:00 - 20:59 UTC 17 March

Mode: CW, SSB, PSK31

Bands: 80, 40 m

(Continued from page 8)

Classes: Single Op QRP CW, SSB, digital or mixed; Single Low Power – LPI - CW, SSB, digital or mixed; Multi-Op Low Power – LPG – CW, SSB, digital or mixed; SWL

Max power: LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: YO: RS(T), QSO no and sector or county; non-YO: RS(T), QSO no and country code

Work stations: Once per mode

QSO Points: 2 points per QSO: YO3 - YO3 or YO - YO or YO – Foreign; 4 points per QSO: YO3 - YO or YO - YO3 or YO3 - Foreign

Multipliers: Each YO county; Each YO3 sector; Each country code

Score Calculation: Total score = total score of each segment (total QSO points x total mults)

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 27 March 2014

E-mail logs to: fenyo3jw@yahoo.com

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://bucuresti.ynos.ro/cb/index.php/en/

Next Weeks Contests

CLARA HF Contest, 17:00 UTC 18 March to 17:00 UTC 19 March 17:00 UTC 22 March to 17:00 UTC 23 March

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 19 March

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC 19 March 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 19 March 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 20 March

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint, 00:30 - 02:30 UTC 20 March

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, SSB, 20:00 - 21:30 UTC 20 March

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 21 March

NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 21 March

FOC QSO Party, 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 22 March

Oklahoma QSO Party, 13:00 UTC 22 March to 01:00 UTC 23 March; 13:00 - 19:00 UTC 23 March

Louisiana QSO Party, 15:00 UTC 22 March to 03:00 UTC 23 March

QCWA Spring QSO Party, 18:00 UTC 22 March to 18:00 UTC 23 March

UBA Spring SSB Contest, 07:00 - 11:00 UTC 23 March

Nauryz DX Contest, 08:00 - 13:59 UTC 23 March

SOTA – The Basics

Summits On The Air is a scheme that encourages amateur radio operators to go portable and work from high places around the country, and around the world – You don't need to be a mountaineer to take part, and if the idea of climbing mountains and hills in the name of amateur radio doesn't appeal, then you can be a 'chaser' sitting comfortably at home working the more adventurous SOTA operators.

There's a large number of qualifying hills and mountains around the world that are valid for SOTA activation. Each summit has a unique reference, and is awarded a number of points from 1 to 10.

There are a number of rules for a valid SOTA activation:

⇒ Access to the final part of the summit must not be by motorised transport.

⇒ A portable power supply has to be used (batteries or solar) – no mains or generators!

⇒ A minimum of 4 QSOs with different stations is required for the activation to count towards SOTA points

⇒ Any mode (Voice, CW, Data) is permitted – No use of repeaters though

⇒ You can use the maximum power allowed by your licence – although many work at 5 watts

SOTA relies on spotting and reporting using SOTAWatch (a SOTA-specific cluster) http://www.sotawatch.org/, and it's worth a look on this site to see what's active and where.

What kit do you need?

For many SOTA activators, the Yaesu FT-817 is the rig of choice. Although limited to 5 watts, this is usually enough for SOTA work, the rig is portable, and with the addition of a cheap SLAB (Sealed Lead Acid Battery), a day's operation is easy.

For VHF and UHF, antenna-wise, the SOTA Beam is ideal, and a slim-Jim for 2 m operation also works. For HF, options include tuned dipoles, linked dipoles, delta loops and fishing poles. Other equipment can come in handy, such as a GPS device, a decent compass and set of maps, a first aid kit, torch and waterproof clothing. Logging is important, so pen, paper, clipboard and a way of keeping everything dry is handy too.

SOTA – Why do it? It's all about Awards – The "Mountain Goat" Activator being a common one – Four QSOs are mandatory for SOTA points at a summit. Chasers stay at home in the warm, and they can get awards too. There's also a "Summit to Summit" award.

Video: SOTA Explained - If you're looking to find out more about SOTA, take a look at the first episode of TX Factor, http://www.essexham.co.uk/news/tx-factor-amateur-radio-tv-show-episode-1.html the new TV show for amateurs. From about 12 minutes into the show, there's a feature showing what SOTA is all about and looking at a typical activation

Handy SOTA Links: SOTA Website: www.sota.org.uk and SOTA Beams: www.sotabeams.co.uk.

Thanks to Annie, M6NHB, and Nev, M6FNR, for asking about SOTA, and James, 2E1GUA, for suggesting this page

History this Week, week starting 10 March 14

1611 - The word 'telescope' was first used in public by Prince Federico Cesi

1633 - Galileo Galilei's second trial by the Inquisition, decided that "the Earth was not the centre of the Universe" was heretical

1751 - Ebenezer Kinnersley advertised in the Pennsylvania Gazette that he was to give a lecture on "The Newly Discovered Electrical Fire."

1802 - Richard Trevithick took out his first patent. It was for the first full sized road locomotive

1803 - A patent was issued for the engine used on a twin-screw propeller steamboat built by John Stevens of Hoboken, NY

1846 - The telegraph ticker tape machine was patented by R.E. House

1849 - The first US patent for a safety pin was issued to Walter Hunt of New York City

1877 - A steam-engine driven helicopter model built by Enrico Forlanini rose 12 m

1879 - H.L'Estrange first Australian parachute drop from balloon over Melbourne.

1893 - Edison opens first motion picture studio, West Orange, New Jersey

1894 - Edison displays motion picture 'peep show' in New York

1900 - First military (Royal Navy) use of wireless in the Boer War over a distance of 85 km

1912 - Titanic sinks, radio use results in saving many lives.

1912 - David Sarnoff picked up a message of distress call of the Titanic relayed from ships at sea

1923 - Lee DeForest's Phonofilm, the first sound-on-sound film, motion picture

1926 - Second flight of a liquid-fuelled rocket by Robert Goddard

1934 - Highest wind velocity 598 km/h measured at Mt Washington, New Hampshire, USA

1941 - Igor Ivor Sikorsky made the first helicopter flight for over one-hour in his Vought-Sikorsky VS-300

1956 - The first practical black-and-white video recorder was demonstrated in Chicago

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News and Southgate ARC News